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Double Take: A Memoir



Synopsis

“Kevin Connolly has used an unusual physical circumstance to create a gripping work of art. This deeply affecting memoir will place him in the company of Jeanette Walls and Augusten Burroughs.” • Sara Gruen, author of *Water for Elephants* “Charming | Connolly recounts growing up a scrappy Montana kid • one who happened to be born without legs... [Double Take] makes for an empowering read.” • People As featured on 20/20, NPR, and in the Washington Post: Kevin Connolly is a young man born without legs who travels the world • by skateboard, with his camera • on his “Rolling Exhibition,” • snapping pictures of peoples’ reactions to him | and finds out along the way what it truly means to be human.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Photographer, champion skier and skateboarder Connolly has been stared at his entire 23-year life. Not because he’s handsome, talented and athletic (all true), but because he has no legs. He was born without them, but born into a family that he describes as loving, loyal and matter-of-fact. Connolly writes that his father and grandfather • inspired by several seasons of *MacGyver* • engineered numerous devices to help the growing boy manage everyday tasks, from using light switches to pitching in on chores, and he was well prepared for his first day of school because his mother led countless *What would you do if...?* conversations. Connolly appears to be an intelligent, fairly unflappable adult with a healthy sense of humility and humor. He’s a good

storyteller, too, whether describing his first high school wrestling match, the path from novice to champion skier or what it's like to travel around the world on a skateboard. Connolly also shares his memories of an important, defining moment: when he decided to use photography to gaze back at the people who stared at him. Each photo was a miniature catharsis, he writes, adding, Finally, I was able to find my own use for that stare, and it felt good. His photos, 19 of which serve as chapter dividers, became part of The Rolling Exhibition, which was shown worldwide, including at the Smithsonian. The images are beautiful, revealing and stimulating—just like his narrative. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Kevin Connolly has used an unusual physical circumstance to create a gripping work of art. This deeply affecting memoir will place him in the company of Jeanette Walls and Augusten Burroughs.” (Sara Gruen, author of *Water for Elephants*) “[A] charming memoir | Connolly recounts growing up a scrappy Montana kid—one who happened to be born without legs...[*Double Take*] makes for an empowering read.” (People) “A courageous, immensely rewarding chronicle expressed in arresting words and pictures.” (Kirkus Reviews, starred review) “Life’s most successful survivors meet adversity head on, with an unflinching eye, candor and with humor. Kevin Connolly has such an eye and weaves a rich memoir from the gut about his amazing journey through life.” (Lee Woodruff, author of *In an Instant*) “Beautiful, revealing, and stimulating...[Connolly] is a good storyteller...whether describing his first high school wrestling match, the path from novice to champion skier or what it’s like to travel around the world on a skateboard.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) “Touching and comedic, inspiring and telling...[*Double Take*] is a remarkable portrait of the human spirit.” (The Free Lance-Star Publishing Co) “[*Double Take*] reminds the reader that perspective is everything. It’s an inspiring read about a human being who doesn’t concern himself with what he has lost or never had. [Kevin Connolly] is a lucky man, sharing his bounty with us.” (Sacramento Book Review)

My niece put me onto this book on her visit to us in June. As a transplanted Montanan, I read anything I can get that hints of home but this is far beyond the usual. Kevin Connolly is a young man dealing with a far more life-disruptive disability than anyone else I have heard of, yet he is infectiously funny, unabashedly upfront and in your face, and can be serious in a way that doesn't

cloy or get sappy yet purveys the depths of his day-to-day difficulties. I was mightily impressed with Kevin's courage and ability to deal with his situation in such a healthy, straightforward manner, and his determination to live a positive and full life. His parents must be very wise. My niece works with incoming freshmen at MSU in Bozeman, MT where he is scheduled to talk to the new class this fall. I envy her knowing and working with this young man in any capacity. He has much to teach us all.

I really enjoyed this book. Was without angst. Just down to earth. Interesting anecdotes and very funny in places. Loved to hear how he and his family able to cope and adapt everyday in such a warm, crazy way. Kevin was a delight in his enthusiasm for people and places around the world; and yes; people stare. Everyone does it for all types of reasons but usually just curiosity; not meanness.

This is a charming, easy-reading narrative by a star of adaptive skiing and a budding photographer. He is young to write a memoir, and he does leave me with a few questions about how he's managed to do certain things without legs (but maybe I'm just too nosy). The best parts of this, to me, come in the second half--when he describes the strange reactions he's received from strangers throughout the world. As a wheelchair-user myself, I take exception to but nonetheless understand his desire to separate himself from "the disabled." After all, all of us with visible disabilities get stared at, pitied, prayed over, etc. You end the book feeling as if you've just made a good new friend and would like more conversations in the near future.

A very insightful memoir. I would recommend this book to anyone. It is not just about living with a disability, but about social perceptions, personal reflection, and bravely taking part in adventure. I would love to have the opportunity to sit down with this young man and have a chat over coffee. I felt like I was his friend by the end of the book.

From start to finish this book had me wanting more. It truly is a gripping life story about somebody you can relate to. There is just the right amount of humor, drama, and human spirit that anybody can enjoy this tale. I cannot recommend this book enough. I have already told countless friends to give it a shot and the ones who have read it agree, this is worth a read. Kevin Michael Connolly takes you on a journey and lets you feel what it's like to be in his "boot", to see, and feel things from his perspective. This book also contains photos from his project which just adds to the reasons you should buy this book. I could not put this down, I read it in a day because of how gripping it was. I'm no skilled writer so I cannot fully do this fine literary work enough justice, so go on read it, you know

you want to.

Reading this book is part of the class assignment but the book is surprisingly interesting to read. I highly recommend it.

My son will begin college in september and was told that he had to read this book. A little upset since he thought he was done with summer reading, I decided to get the book ASAP. We received the book within days and we left on vacation taking it with us. On our drive down 95 to Florida my son read the book aloud and we all enjoyed the witty and comical outlook from a person born with such a disability. I enjoyed it so much that I will be reading it as soon as my son is done with "Double Take" This is a great read!....MOM

This book is a quick, heart warming and thought provoking read. Kevin shows us the normalcy of life with out legs and a new appreciation for a world of physical disabilities. He is a wonderful writer, can't say how many times he made me laugh out loud describing some of the stories.

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